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#146

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

OCI #0945/72

3 August 1972

State Dept. review completed

All in Good Clean Fun?

On 2 August two East German border guards fired "blanks" at a US wall patrol. The two members of the American patrol had mounted an observation tower bordering East Germany and observed two East German guards as they dismounted from a motorcycle. One of the two East Germans aimed his AK-47 directly at the patrol and fired four rounds. According to Mission Berlin the Americans were sure that live ammunition was not used because of its sound and the fact that no rounds passed by them. The two East Germans were grinning and appeared to consider it a great joke.

The US Mission considered this "prank" too serious to let pass. An oral protest was lodged with the Soviet Embassy in East Berlin where the acting Soviet protocol officer agreed that whatever the border guards' intentions, the matter "could not be regarded as a joke." The two guards will probably have red faces trying to explain this one.

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Ousted Croat Leader Dies

Pero Pirker, former secretary of the Croatian party executive committee, died Tuesday morning in a Zagreb hospital. The 45 year old Pirker was a prominent member of the young, popular Croatian leadership which was purged last December for nationalist excesses. The consulate in Zagreb reported recently that Pirker was seriously ill with a brain tumor but the press announcement gave no clue as to the cause of death, simply saying that he succumbed to a grave illness.

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Yugoslav-Soviet Credit Negotiations Set

A Yugoslav economic delegation is scheduled to leave for Moscow on 8 August to negotiate a credit estimated by some sources to be as high as \$1.3 billion. This sum apparently is the overall credit figure reached at the April meeting of the Yugoslav-Soviet mixed economic committee. Embassy Belgrade

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reported at that time that various projects would be negotiated within the framework of a massive state-to-state credit which is to extend through 1980.

Vice Premier Sirotkovic told an Embassy officer that about 50% of these projects were proposed during the Tito visit to Moscow in June. The Yugoslavs have indicated, in private, that they hope to limit overall debt obligations to the Soviets to \$800 million and apparently will go to Moscow with an eye toward this objective.

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Chinese Ambassador in Belgrade Confirms Lin Piao Story

The Chicom Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Tseng Tao, has confirmed earlier stories that Lin Pao tried to lead a plot against Mao Tse-Tung and died in a plane crash in Mongolia while trying to flee. Lin, according to Tseng Tao, earlier had deviated from the party line; Mao tried to bring him back, but failed. Tseng Tao also implied that since the cultural revolution, Lin had repeatedly tried to seize power.

Tseng Tao's comments were given prominent play in the Belgrade press on 2 August, following his talk with Tanjug's diplomatic editor Budimir Velimir, the evening before at a Chinese Embassy reception. Yi Chien-Ying (phonetic) is now said to be in charge of national defense.

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Week-Long Nudist Congress Opens in Yugoslavia

An estimated 30,000 European nudists have converged on the Istrian peninsula for the 13th World Congress of Nudists. According to one press report, the nature lovers will be frolicking, cavorting and swimming on the same beaches and parks where the great 18th century lover, Casanova, once carried out his exploits. Local church officials, however, are less than enthusiastic about the event and have expressed alarm at the spread of nudism in the area. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Porec declined an invitation to hold mass during the congress.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE BRANCH